

Key Quotes

President Nicos Anastasiades told world leaders yesterday that his government's primary objective is safeguarding peace and stability in Cyprus by working toward a settlement of the decades-long dispute. ***"It is my firm belief that the current status quo is unacceptable and its prolongation would have further negative consequences for the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Thus, a comprehensive settlement is not only desirable, but should not be further delayed"*** Anastasiades noted (Cyprus Mail, CY, 27/9).

<http://cyprus-mail.com/2013/09/27/anastasiades-current-status-quo-is-unacceptable-updated/>

Serbian gay rights activists say to march despite threats. *Reuters UK* notes that conservative societies across the Balkans have been slow to accept greater gay rights, but this year's Pride has become a litmus test of the Serbian government's commitment to tolerance and diversity as it seeks closer ties with the EU. Asked if he would attend the parade, Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić replied ***"No. Do I have to become gay?"*** (Reuters, UK, 26/9).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/us-serbia-gaypride-idUKBRE98P0L620130926>

Summary

Davutoğlu discusses Turkey-EU relations with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu on Tuesday met EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and according to diplomatic sources they discussed Turkey-EU relations. The Turkish Foreign Minister also discussed the Cyprus issue and the latest developments regarding Cyprus (eurasia.ro, 25/9). However, after 45 years of waiting patiently at the door and a number of talks trudging forward at a snail's pace, Turkey has become embittered and has started to go vocal on a possible withdrawal of its membership candidature. Two figures linked to Islamic Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan have made public statements to this effect in recent days. For the first time a minister, the Minister for EU Affairs Egemen Bağış, said many are thinking Turkey *"will probably never be EU member"*. Erdoğan's chief advisor, Yiğit Bulut, followed by saying *"Turkey should immediately get rid of the European Union scenarios"*, since the country could instead take on the leadership of the new world coming into being in the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa. Meanwhile, the *"tragicomedy"* of the EU membership process goes on. Since 2005 only one negotiation chapter out of a total of 35 has been closed. Polls show that most Europeans do not want a large Muslim country with 75 million inhabitants in the EU, and the issue of Cyprus - the northern half of which has been occupied by Turkey since 1974 - remains a sore point. In 11 years under an Islamic government, Turkey has changed. It is now the 17th largest economy in the world and European Istanbul is no longer the centre of the country's power (ansamed.info, IT, 26/9).

- eurasia.ro, 25/9, <http://eurasia.ro/?p=50636>
- ansamed.info, IT, 26/9, <http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/turkey/2013/09/26/Turkey-should-quit-EU-bid-says-Erdogan-quru-9362338.html>

Serbia will not accept Kosovo's membership of the UN

Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić addressed the UN General Assembly in New York on Wednesday to say that Serbia has neither *"de jure nor de facto"* recognised Kosovo. The EU-mediated agreement reached with Pristina in April *"in no way means that Belgrade intends to accept Kosovo's accession to the UN or any other international organization"* he added. Nikolić at the same time said that Serbia wished to, with the reached agreements, protect the Serb community in Kosovo and ensure normal life for all residents of Kosovo (balkans.com, CY, 26/9). Delo (SI, 26/9) reported that Slovenia's President Borut Pahor could be an intermediary between Serbia and Kosovo.

- balkans.com, CY, 26/9, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=182480>
- Delo, SI, 26/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130926/mi/item_170437207.pdf

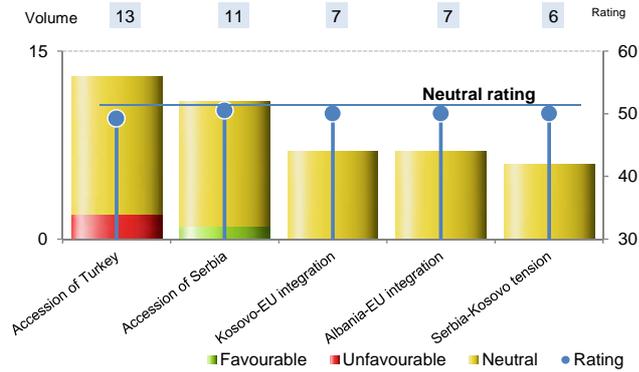
Kosovo government on the ropes over stalled telecom sale

Kosovo on Wednesday postponed the signing of a deal to sell its PTK telecom provider in a political row that threatens to inflict more damage on the country's reputation among foreign investors and could ultimately bring down the government. The 227 million euro (\$306 million) deal requires parliamentary approval but faces resistance from a number of deputies from the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, as well as the opposition. An early election, a year ahead of schedule, could complicate efforts by the European Union to steer Kosovo and its former master Serbia through a delicate rapprochement and set both on the path to eventual membership of the bloc (uk.reuters.com, UK, 25/9).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 25/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/25/kosovo-telecom-government-idUKL5N0HK1U320130925>

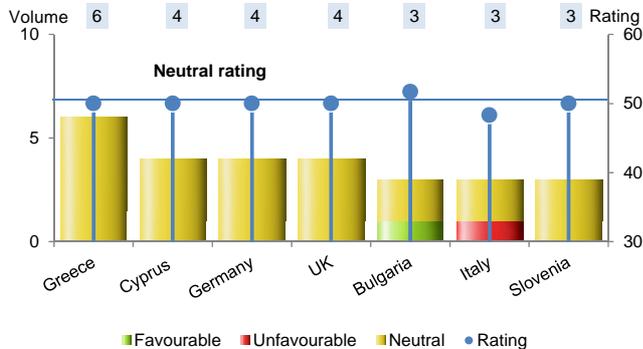
Charts

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| Neutral % | 88% |

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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Evangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece) | 7 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey) | 6 |
| Ditmir Bushati (Foreign Minister, Albania) | 6 |
| Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia) | 5 |
| Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo) | 4 |
| Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey) | 3 |
| Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey) | 3 |

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